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Ald. Terry L. Witkowski
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Crime in South Side's Gateway to Milwaukee area is down 40 percent

Alderman Terry L. Witkowski and members of the Gateway to Milwaukee announced on Wednesday that crime in the business improvement district is down more than 40 percent, according to an analysis of data from 2008 to 2014.

“In the decade since we launched the Gateway to Milwaukee, the results have been plain to see,” Alderman Witkowski said. “Investment in properties is up, complaints of crime are down and the area has evolved aesthetically into a place that Milwaukee can be proud to call the city’s front door. But it is truly gratifying to see on paper the way that Gateway to Milwaukee’s security initiatives are paying off and making this a safer place to live and do business.”

Conducted by a consultant, the analysis of Milwaukee Police Department data from 2008 to 2014 shows an across-the-board decline in crime throughout the BID (which encompasses an area from Howard to College Avenues and from 13th Street to Brust Avenue and the city limits to the east). The decline was nearly uniform in all categories of crime, including violent crime and property crime, and coincided with the launch of Gateway to Milwaukee’s mobile security unit initiative in 2008.

Pooling the resources of more than 300 businesses within its boundaries, the BID has contracted with local security firm SPI to patrol the area for 200 hours each month. Their presence has provided a visible deterrent to crime, and has helped thwart a number of crimes in progress.

Alderman Witkowski said Gateway to Milwaukee has also found success with a grant program to help local businesses afford the installation of security systems, which the BID hopes to expand in the near future.

